

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

49043  
Approved For Release 2002/05/07 : CIA-RDP79T01018A000300050001-6

Nº 112

## Geographic Intelligence Report

### THE OLSZTYN REGION



CIA/RR GR 60-4

September 1960

DOCUMENT NO. 1  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
☐ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1989  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 29 Nov 79 REVIEWER:

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Research and Reports

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2002/05/07 : CIA-RDP79T01018A000300050001-6

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## Geographic Intelligence Report

### THE OLSZTYN REGION

CIA/RR GR 60-4

#### WARNING

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, USC, Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Research and Reports

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Summary and Conclusions . . . . .	1
I. Introduction . . . . .	3
II. Geographic Setting . . . . .	5
A. Terrain and Climate . . . . .	5
B. Political Geography . . . . .	11
III. Population . . . . .	17
A. Population Changes 1939-59 . . . . .	17
B. Characteristics of the Population in 1959 . . . . .	17
C. Settlement Patterns . . . . .	20
IV. Economy . . . . .	23
A. General Status of Development . . . . .	23
B. Natural Resources . . . . .	26
C. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry . . . . .	26
D. Industry . . . . .	30
V. Transportation . . . . .	33
A. Railroads . . . . .	33
B. Roads . . . . .	33
C. Inland Waterways . . . . .	34
VI. Military Aspects . . . . .	39
VII. Soviet-Polish Relations In and Near the Olsztyn Region . . . . .	41
A. General . . . . .	41
B. Navigation of the Zalew Wislany (Frisches Haff). . . . .	41
C. Flood-control Problems Along the Poland-USSR Boundary . . . . .	42
D. Soviet Removal of Assets During and After World War II . . . . .	42
VIII. The German Claim to East Prussia . . . . .	43

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Appendixes</u>	
Appendix A. Historical Resume of Polish-administered East Prussia . . . . .	45
Appendix B. Industries of the Olsztyn Region . . . . .	47
Appendix C. Gaps in Intelligence . . . . .	51
Appendix D. Source References . . . . .	53

<u>Photographs</u>	
Figure 1. Grass-covered hills south of Gołdap . . . . .	6
Figure 2. The shore of Jezioro Śniardwy . . . . .	6
Figure 3. Jezioro Niegocińskie (Löwentin-See) . . . . .	7
Figure 4. Part of morainic plateau of Olsztyn Region. .	7
Figure 5. Looking west across Zalew Wiślany . . . . .	9
Figure 6. Braniewo (Braunsberg), near Poland-USSR boundary . . . . .	9
Figure 7. Tolmicko, a small fishing settlement . . . . .	10
Figure 8. Typical Masurian landscape . . . . .	10
Figure 9. Undulating grainfields in the southwest . . .	11
Figure 10. Street scene in Górowo-Іławeckie (Landsberg).	13
Figure 11. Lake immediately northeast of Gołdap . . . . .	14
Figure 12. Landscape of the Rominter Heide . . . . .	14
Figure 13. Malbork (Marienburg) on the Nogat . . . . .	15
Figure 14. Ełk (Lyck), in southeastern Olsztyn . . . . .	18
Figure 15. Ełk (Lyck) street scene . . . . .	18

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 16. Post-World War II street scene in Olsztyn . .	22
Figure 17. Street scene in Olsztyn, November 1958 . . .	22
Figure 18. Pre-World War II view of Lidzbark Warminski .	24
Figure 19. Elblag in ruins . . . . .	24
Figure 20. Post-World War II street scene . . . . .	25
Figure 21. Post-World War II street scene in Go/dap . .	25
Figure 22. Harvesting rye in southwestern Olsztyn . . .	27
Figure 23. Sowing wheat on state farm at Koz/owo . . . .	27
Figure 24. Collective farm, probably a former estate . .	28
Figure 25. Log rafting on the Jezioro Nidzkie . . . . .	31
Figure 26. Post-World War II reconstruction . . . . .	35
Figure 27. German-constructed Autobahn . . . . .	35
Figure 28. /yna (Alle) River near the city of Olsztyn .	36
Figure 29. Jezioro Nidzkie (Nieder-See) near Ruciane . .	36
Figure 30. Inland waterway craft at Giżycko . . . . .	37
Figure 31. Miko/akji (Nikolaiken) on Kanal Mazurski . .	37
Figure 32. One of several over-the-hill portages . . . .	38

Maps

	<u>Following Page</u>
Poland: Olsztyn Region - Orientation Map (29123) . . . .	3
Poland: Olsztyn Region - Physiographic Zones (29124) . .	10

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

S-E-C-R-E-T

	<u>Following Page</u>
Poland: Olsztyn Region - Prewar and Postwar Administration (29125) . . . . .	16
Poland: Olsztyn Region - Boundary Adjustment near Zalew Wislany (29126) . . . . .	16

S-E-C-R-E-T

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Approved For Release 2002/05/07 : CIA-RDP79T01018A000300050001-6

~~SECRET~~

THE OLSZTYN REGION\*

Summary and Conclusions

The Olsztyn Region, or Polish-administered East Prussia, takes in about one-fifth of the area east of the Oder-Neisse line that Germany lost in fact, if not legally, following World War II. Thus, it is a territory that will have to be taken into account in any long-range German-Polish settlement and one that may be included in discussions of the reunification of Germany. Since 1945 the Olsztyn Region has been treated by the Polish Government as an integral part of Poland. War losses and the postwar expulsion of German nationals as well as the later resettlement of the region with Poles have made the area ethnically Polish. Although the present population of some 1,200,000 includes many refugees from territories that Poland lost to the USSR, it is still about 100,000 less than the prewar population. The economy of the region is being developed as a part of the Polish economy, to which it now makes an appreciable contribution although, in most spheres, 1939 production levels have not yet been reattained. The current contribution of the Olsztyn Region to the economic life of Poland cannot be considered critical, however, and its loss would not have the far-reaching effects that the loss of the contribution of the former German territories between pre-World War II Poland and the Oder-Neisse line would entail. The farms, towns, industrial plants, and public works of the Olsztyn Region were badly damaged during World War II. Although considerable rebuilding has been accomplished, the results seem to compare unfavorably with reconstruction elsewhere in Poland. The somewhat depressed state of the Olsztyn Region today can be attributed mainly to the war and its aftermath, but environmental factors such as poor soils, a short growing season, and a paucity of natural resources other than forests also are partly responsible. The over-all weakness of the Polish economy and the limited capital available for investment in areas that are not considered important in terms of industrialization also affect the rate of development in the Olsztyn Region. The Federal Republic of Germany still officially calls for a return to the German frontiers of 1937 and thus maintains a claim to Polish-administered East Prussia. The claim, however, has been weakened by the continuing exodus of Germans and Germanized autochthons, and now derives its main if not its only strength from the

---

\* The conclusions contained in this report represent the best judgment of this Office as of 1 August 1960.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2002/05/07 : CIA-RDP79T01018A000300050001-6

S-E-C-R-E-T

refusal of the Western Powers to recognize the Oder-Neisse line. Although the permanency of Polish acquisition of former German territory has not been recognized by the West, it is believed in some Western countries as well as Communist countries that the re-creation of a German East Prussia would bring about an undesirable revival of the Polish Corridor problem. Developments in the northern part of East Prussia, administered by the USSR, also augur poorly for the German claim. The acquisition of northern East Prussia by the USSR was recognized in the Potsdam Agreement by both the United States and the United Kingdom. This former German area now comprises the westernmost territory under the Soviet flag and is fairly important to the USSR as a transportation outlet to the Baltic Sea and as a military area, possibly for missile sites. Thus, it is exceedingly difficult to foresee circumstances under which the USSR would accept territorial adjustments that would bring German sovereignty back to any part of East Prussia.

---

S-E-C-R-E-T



S-E-C-R-E-T

I. Introduction

The area under consideration in this report is limited to the Polish-administered portion of East Prussia\*, which coincides to some extent with a distinctive physiographic province, the Masurian Lake Region. With certain exceptions, the part of East Prussia administered by Poland also coincides with the Polish administrative province (województwo) of Olsztyn (see Map 29123, following p. 3 ). To avoid confusion with certain loosely used terms such as "northern territories" or "regained territories," the study area will be referred to as the "Olsztyn Region" or "Polish-administered East Prussia."\*\* References in this study to areas "gained" by Poland following World War II refer to the de facto situation. The United States Government does not recognize the present status of these areas or their boundaries.

During World War II,\*\*\* East Prussia was not invaded by Soviet forces until late 1944. Advancing from the east, the Soviet armies encountered strong resistance and the ensuing fighting greatly damaged farms, towns, and communications. Before the Soviet advance, many German civilians evacuated East Prussia, moving westward to central Germany. The Potsdam Conference (1945) placed the northern part of East Prussia under Soviet administration and the southern part under Polish administration, pending final settlement by a peace conference. Expulsion of the remaining German population was tacitly approved. 1/\*\*\*\* Since 1945 the Polish Government in administering southern East Prussia has treated the area as an integral part of Poland and has encouraged the settlement there of refugees from the "eastern territories" that Poland lost to the USSR. The government of the Federal Republic of Germany, however, still officially calls for a return to the German frontiers of 1937 and in doing so maintains a German claim to all of East Prussia.

---

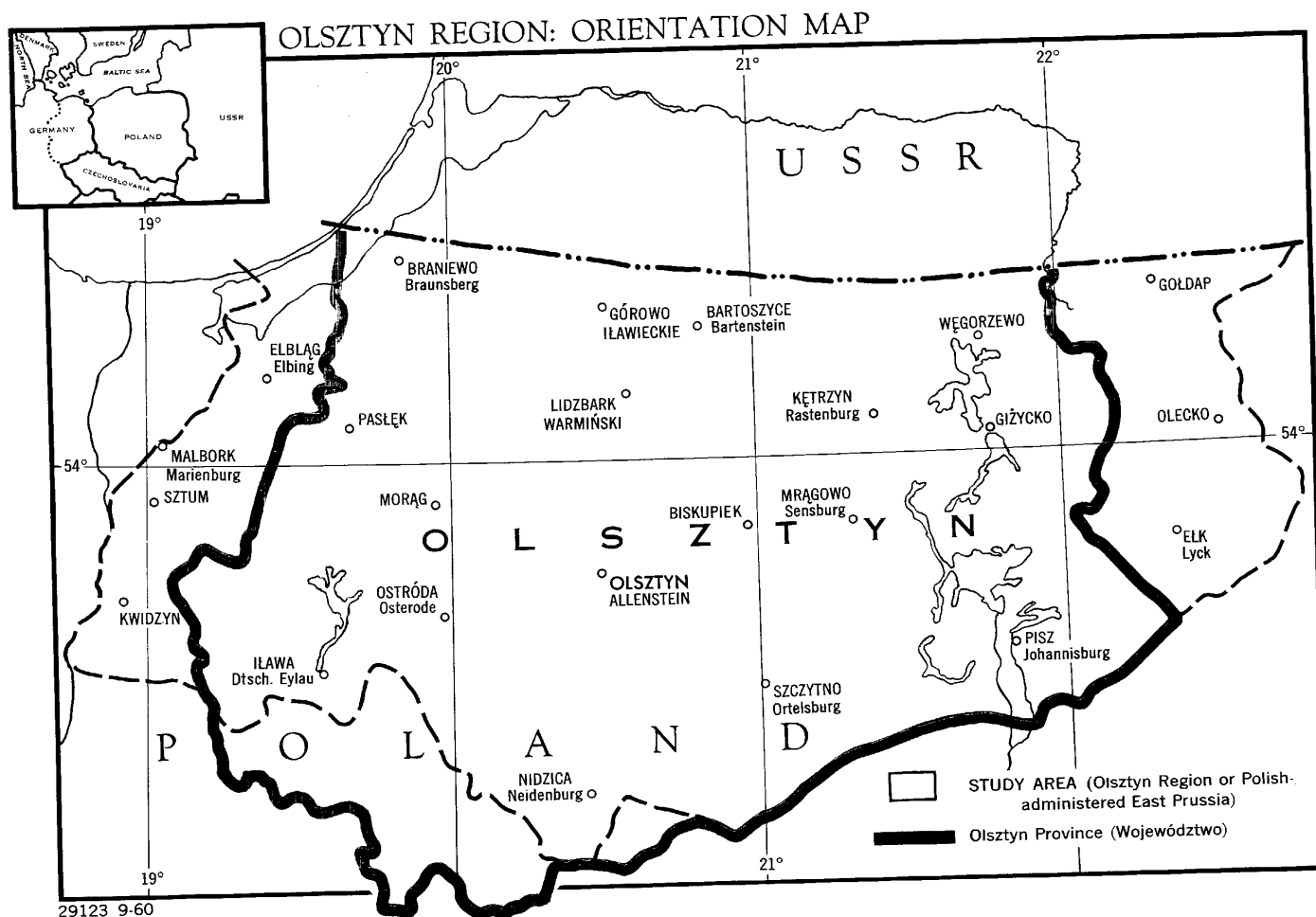
\* Other Polish-administered German territory east of the Oder-Neisse line is considered in an earlier geographic intelligence report: Postwar Development in the "Western Territories" of Poland, CIA/RR G-19, January 1958, S.

\*\* The terms currently used to designate the area covered in this report are discussed in greater detail in Appendix A, Part II.

\*\*\* The pre-World War II history of the Olsztyn Region is sketched briefly in Appendix A, Part I.

\*\*\*\* For serially numbered source references, see Appendix D.

S-E-C-R-E-T



S-E-C-R-E-T

## II. Geographic Setting

### A. Terrain and Climate

The Olsztyn Region of northeastern Poland is roughly rectangular in shape, about 165 miles long from east to west and 50 to 85 miles wide from north to south. The total area comprises some 9,500 square miles, of which about 4 percent is more or less permanent water surface.

Physically, most of the Olsztyn Region is a morainic plateau characterized by irregular relief, sandy soils, and numerous lakes (see Map 29124, following p. 10). Except in a few river valleys, the plateau is everywhere more than 300 feet above sea level, and much of it is over 500 feet. In the northeast near Gołdap and in the southwest near Ostróda, elevations exceed 1,000 feet (see Figure 1). Lake-filled hollows lie among innumerable irregularly arranged hills and ridges (see Figures 2 and 3). Many of the 380-odd lakes have a general north-south orientation and are connected by streams and canals. Much of the plateau is drained by rivers that flow northward and cross part of the USSR before draining into the Baltic by way of the Pregl' River and the Zalew Wiślany (Frische Haff). The woods of the morainic plateau are predominately evergreen (pine, spruce, and fir) with small isolated stands of mixed deciduous trees (alder, birch, hornbeam, beech, and oak). Forest cover is interrupted in many places by lakes and marshes and tracts of pasture and cultivated land (see Figure 4).

North of the main morainic plateau and roughly parallel to it lies a strip of coastal plain extending from the extreme west of the region to a point somewhat east of the center (see Map 29124). This area has a flat or undulating surface of boulder clay varied by patches of sand and occasional ridges and isolated plateaus, the largest and most outstanding of which are Wyżna Elbląska (Elbinger Höhe), with a maximum elevation of 650 feet, and Górowskie Wzniesienia (Stabelack), with a maximum elevation of 709 feet. The average elevation of the Górowskie Wzniesienia plateau, however, is only about 300 feet, lower than that of the morainic plateau to the south. West of Elbląg, the coastal plain takes in part of the flat, intensely cultivated delta of the Vistula. In this area, which is crisscrossed by a dense network of drainage ditches and canals, the land may be as much as 5 feet below sea level and the water table approaches the surface. The coastal plain has fewer lakes, and they are much smaller than those of the morainic plateau. In the northwest, the coastal plain fronts on the Zalew Wiślany, a long coastal lagoon with an average width of 5 miles that is enclosed on the northwest by the Mierzeja Wiślana (Frische Nehrung), a mile-wide sandbar (see Figure 5). The waters of the Zalew Wiślany vary from fresh to saline or brackish depending on the influx of sea water through the Baltiysk Channel. The general depths vary from 6 to 13 feet with a maximum of about 16-1/2 feet.

- 5 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

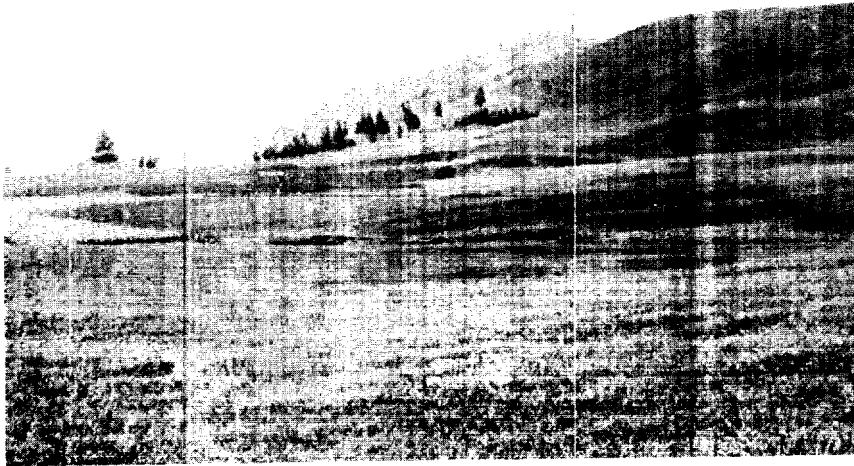


Figure 1. Grass-covered hills south of Gołdap. The summit elevation here is 1,014 feet -- one of only two elevations higher than a thousand feet in the Polish-administered part of East Prussia.



Figure 2. The shore of Jezioro Śniardwy (Spirding-See), the largest lake in the Olsztyn Region.

- 6 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T



Figure 3. Jezioro Niegocińskie (Löwentin-See)  
near Giżycko (Lötzen).



Figure 4. Part of morainic plateau of the Olsztyn Region,  
looking north; view includes a village 3 kilometers west  
of the city of Olsztyn. (Pre-World War II German source)

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

The Zalew Wiślany is crossed diagonally by a channel dredged to 13 feet between the small port of Elbląg and Kaliningrad (Königsberg), in the USSR (see Map 29126, following p. 16). Some parts of the Polish stretch of the eastern shore of the Zalew Wiślany are marshy, especially where rivers flow into the lagoon; in other parts, wooded hills rising to 500 feet are close to the coast (see Figures 6 and 7).

A narrow belt of land along the southern margin of the Olsztyn Region falls within the northern limits of a third terrain zone, the Masurian Plain (see Map 29124). This narrow belt averages some 500 feet in elevation and is characterized by sandy soils, low relief, and few lakes. Woods, predominantly evergreen, are interspersed with cropland and fairly extensive marshes. The area is drained entirely by streams that flow southward into the Vistula (see Figure 8).

The Olsztyn Region has a basically continental climate that is modified somewhat, especially in the west, by maritime influences. The severity of the winters of the eastern section, where maritime influence is slight, is equalled or surpassed in present-day Poland in only two areas -- northern Białyłstok Province and the Carpathian Mountains. Mean January temperatures in the Olsztyn Region range from 20° to 24°F in the east and from 25° to 32°F in the west, whereas mean July temperatures throughout the area range from 57° to 64°F. Maximum and minimum temperatures, however, vary greatly from these averages -- cold as severe as -29°F has been recorded at Suwałki, a few miles east of the eastern limit of the Olsztyn Region; and summers may bring hot spells with maximum temperatures higher than 90°F. Ice forms on the swamps, lakes, and streams in November and, except for short periods of thaw, usually lasts through March. After the general thaw, which usually occurs in late March or early April, the ground becomes waterlogged, and considerable flooding is likely to occur in flat areas and along river valleys. The frost-free season varies from 210 days at points along the coast to as little as 120 days in the southeast. Annual precipitation ranges from 20 to 25 inches and is generally greater in the north than in the south. Precipitation is fairly evenly distributed throughout the year, although there is a slight summer maximum. Most winter precipitation falls as snow. The mean annual number of days with snowfall ranges from 40 in the west to 70 in the east. Snow is on the ground about 100 days per year in the extreme west, 120 days over most of the area, and 136 days in the northeast. The severe winter climate and short growing season of the Olsztyn Region have been significant among several factors in discouraging settlement in the area.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T



Figure 5. Looking west across the Polish section of Zalew Wiślany toward the enclosing sandspit, Mierzeja Wiślana.



Figure 6. Braniewo (Braunsberg), near the Poland-USSR boundary, and the Paszeka River, which flows into the Zalew Wiślany about 10 kilometers northwest of the town.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T



Figure 7. Tolmicko, a small fishing settlement on the eastern shore of Zalew Wiślany.

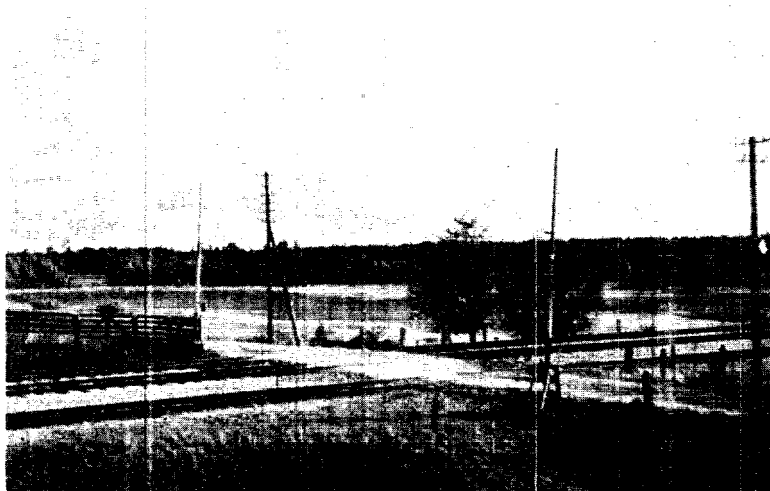


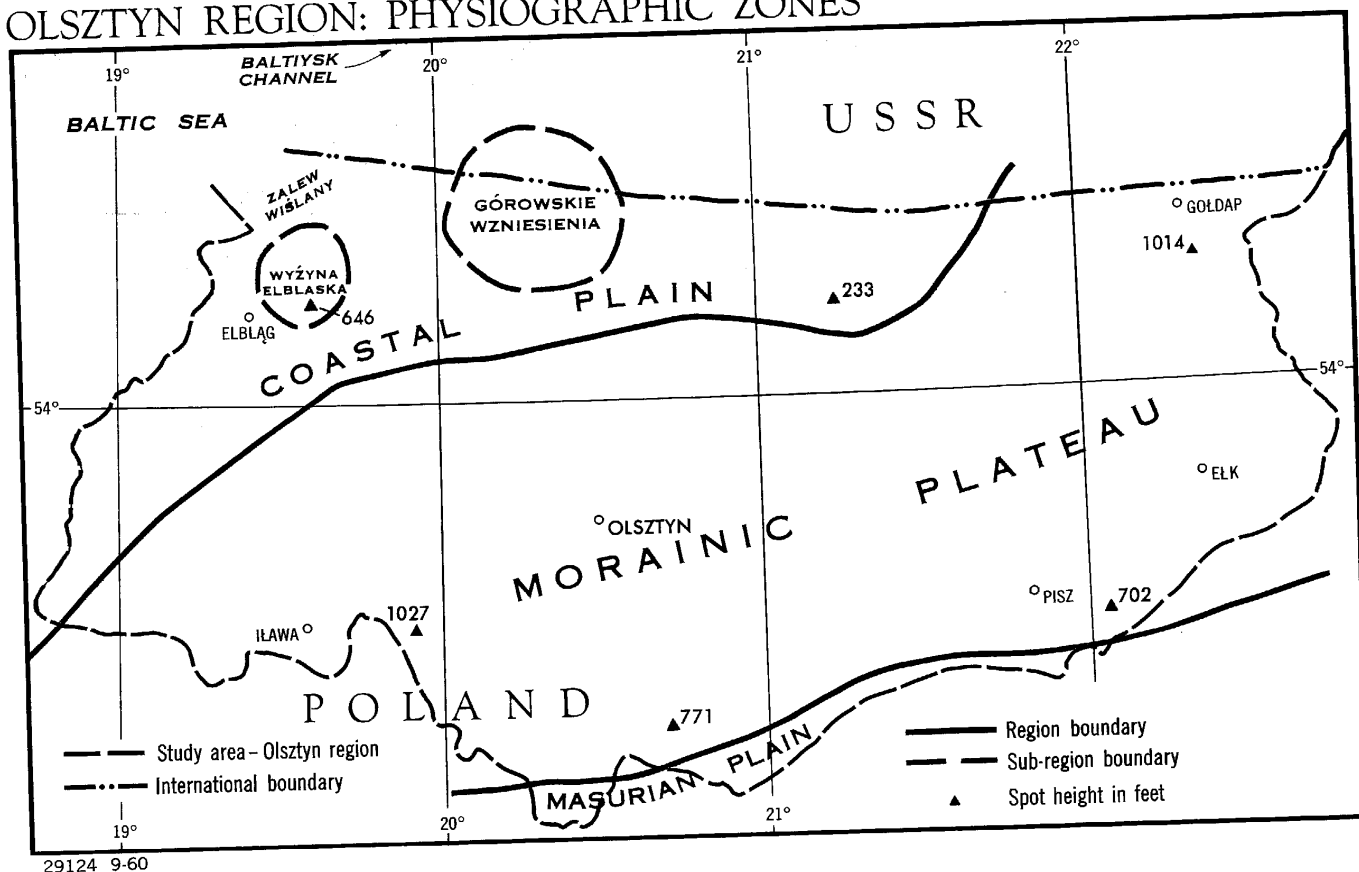
Figure 8. Typical Masurian landscape in vicinity of Prostki (Prostken), near former Poland-East Prussia boundary; E/k-Prostki railroad in foreground. (1933)

- 10 -

S-E-C-R-E-T



# OLSZTYN REGION: PHYSIOGRAPHIC ZONES



S-E-C-R-E-T

B. Political Geography

1. General

Boundary changes radically altering the links between the Olsztyn Region and national centers, both German and Polish, to which it is or has been attached form the keynote of the modern political geography of the area. These changes also have radically altered the relationships between localities of the Olsztyn Region and others immediately adjacent to them. All limits of the region have been affected, some of them twice since World War I. The changes have involved the establishment of new boundaries where none existed before. They have also necessitated great modification of the functions of old boundaries -- for example, former international boundaries that were once highly restrictive have become nonrestrictive civil-division boundaries (see Figure 9).



Figure 9. Undulating grainfields in the southwestern section of the Olsztyn Region. The boundary between civil divisions indicated by the signpost coincides with the former Poland-Germany (East Prussia) border.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

## 2. The International Boundary

The legal basis for the frontier between Polish-administered East Prussia and Soviet-administered East Prussia (Kaliningradskaya Oblast') is a Polish-Soviet treaty of 16 August 1945. The boundary, however, was redefined (apparently with no significant changes) in the late 1950's, and the results of this work were acknowledged in a 1957 Polish-Soviet accord. In 1958, Poland and the USSR arrived at an agreement (ratified 18 March 1958) that fixed the westernmost point of the Poland-USSR frontier and delimited the territorial waters of the two countries near this point. 2/ In accomplishing this, a small parcel of land was transferred (on paper at least) from Soviet to Polish sovereignty (see Map 29126). From both the Polish and the Soviet points of view, it was obviously desirable to have the territorial waters of the two countries sharply defined in this coastal area in order to facilitate boundary security measures and surveillance of fishing craft. The USSR claims a belt of territorial waters 12 nautical miles in width, whereas Poland limits its claim to a 3-mile belt and, beyond that, an adjacent zone 3 miles wide. The rights claimed by Poland for its adjacent zone are not set forth in the 1958 protocol, but probably include customs and sanitation control.

The 130-mile East Prussia segment of the Poland-USSR boundary follows an east-west course roughly parallel to and 25 miles south of the Pregl' River (see Map 29125, following p. 16).

In the west the boundary is located a few miles north of Braniewo; and in the east, a few miles north of the town of Gołdap. The partly wooded land along the frontier is flat or gently undulating. The highest elevations, all less than 1,000 feet, occur in the extreme east near Gołdap and in the west a few miles northwest of Bartoszyce (see Figures 6, 10, 11, and 12). The boundary crosses many rivers and a few lakes and ponds but follows river courses for only a few short stretches. In the extreme west, the line extends through the approximate center of the Zalew Wiślany and divides this coastal lagoon and its enclosing sandspit almost equally between Poland and the USSR (see Map 29126). Railroads and major roads cross the frontier at the following four points, listed from west to east by name of the nearest town: Kheyligenbeyl, USSR (the Autobahn crossing is actually some 5 miles southeast of Kheyligenbeyl); Bagrationovsk, USSR; Zheleznodorozhnyy, USSR; and Gołdap, Poland. Of these, Kheyligenbeyl and Zheleznodorozhnyy are the most important. Traffic across the frontier is light, consisting mostly of freight trains.

Apparently the East Prussia sector of the Poland-USSR boundary is marked along its entire length by a barbed wire fence. Numerous auxiliary security measures, such as watchtowers, tripwires that activate

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

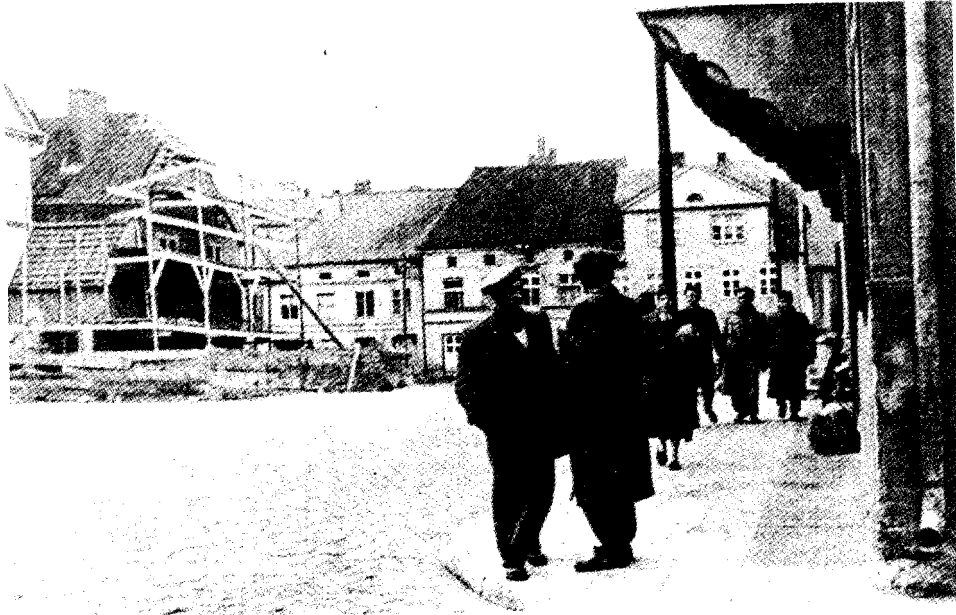


Figure 10. Street scene in Górowo-Iławeckie (Landsberg), a small town near the Poland-USSR boundary. [REDACTED]

25X1

flares, plowed strips, coils of barbed wire, and search lights also have been reported as well as frequent patrolling. The width of the frontier zone on the Polish side averages about 5 kilometers. On the Soviet side the frontier zone may be somewhat wider; widths from 5 to 15 kilometers have been reported. [REDACTED] security measures are much more rigorous on the Soviet side than on the Polish. On the Soviet side some cropland near the frontier is farmed, but the farmers are apparently required to commute daily from homes outside the frontier belt. The herding of animals in the vicinity of the frontier seems to be strictly prohibited on both sides. The water stretch of the boundary, crossing Zalew Wiślany, reportedly is marked with buoys and lighted at night by searchlights from towers on the Mierzeja Wiślana sandspit and on the mainland. Security measures along the short boundary across the Mierzeja Wiślana seem to be extremely strict on both the Polish and Soviet sides.

25X1

### 3. Administrative Divisions

In 1939 the German province of East Prussia with its capital at Königsberg comprised 4 Regierungsbezirken (administrative districts),

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

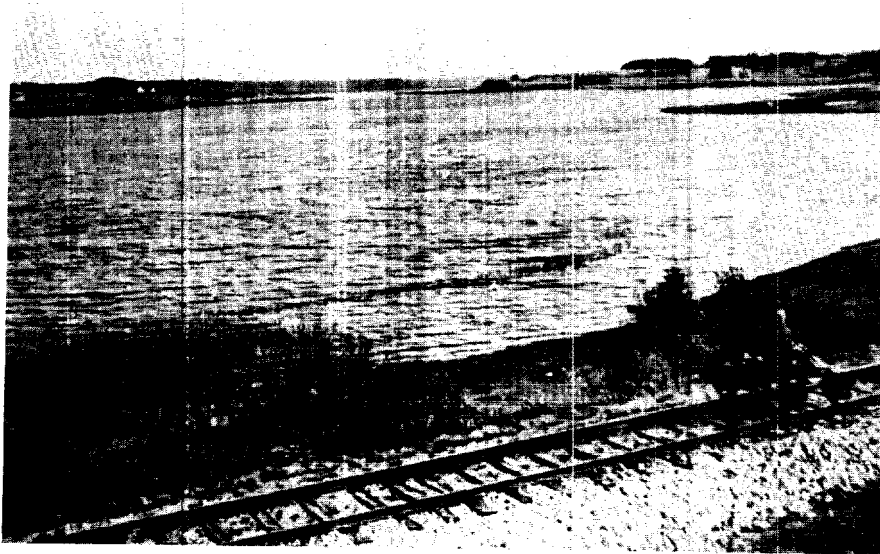


Figure 11. Lake immediately northeast of Gołdap. The present Poland-USSR boundary is located a short distance to the left of photographed area. The railroad in foreground reportedly has been converted to Soviet broad gauge. (Pre-World War II)

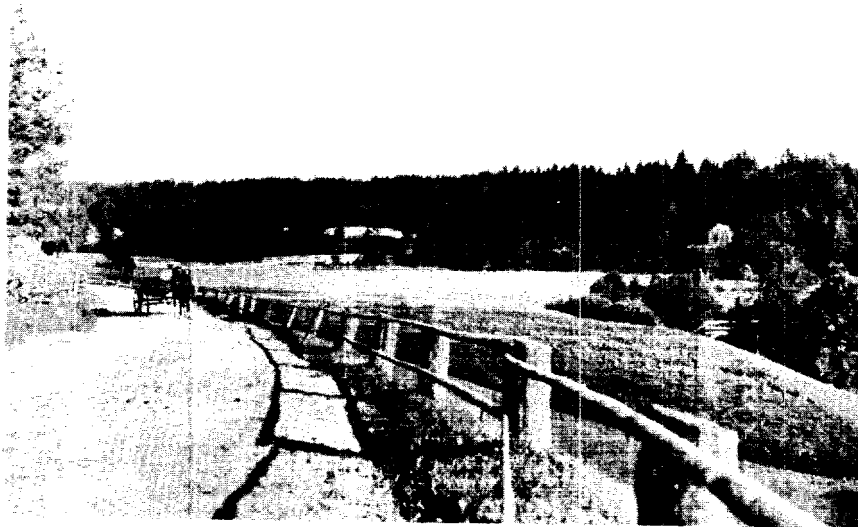


Figure 12. Landscape of the Rominter Heide at eastern end of boundary dividing East Prussia between Poland and USSR. The border cannot be located precisely in relation to the area photographed. (Pre-World War II)

- 14 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

36 Landkreise (rural counties), and 5 Stadtkreise (municipalities). (See Map 29125). The westernmost Regierungsbezirk -- West Prussia -- was formed following World War I, after other parts of the pre-World War I province of West Prussia had been ceded to Poland or to the Free City of Danzig (see Figure 13). In the period between World War I and World

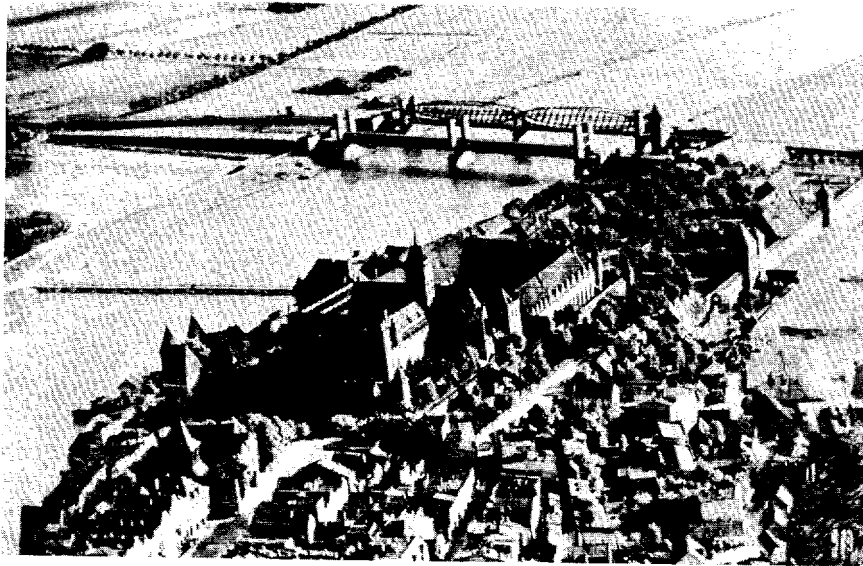


Figure 13. Malbork (Marienburg) on the Nogat, in East Prussia. The thirteenth-century castle in middleground was the main operational base of the Teutonic Knights. Between the two world wars the Nogat River marked the boundary between East Prussia and the territory of the Free City of Danzig.

25X1

War II the Germans, for propaganda reasons, intentionally refrained from combining this remnant, West Prussia, with other units -- although doing so would have made the four Regierungsbezirken more nearly equal in area and population and would have given East Prussia a better-balanced administrative structure. For administrative purposes during World War II, the Germans joined to East Prussia much of the Polish territory to the south between the 1939 southern limit of East Prussia and Warsaw, whereas the Regierungsbezirk of West Prussia was combined with other areas to the west to form the Reichsgau Danzig-Westpreussen. It is significant that current German irredentist propaganda makes no reference to these World War II administrative arrangements for East Prussia and nearby areas, but instead skips back to the administrative arrangements of 1937-39. Statistical arguments (chiefly comparisons between German-administered East Prussia and Polish-administered East Prussia)

S-E-C-R-E-T

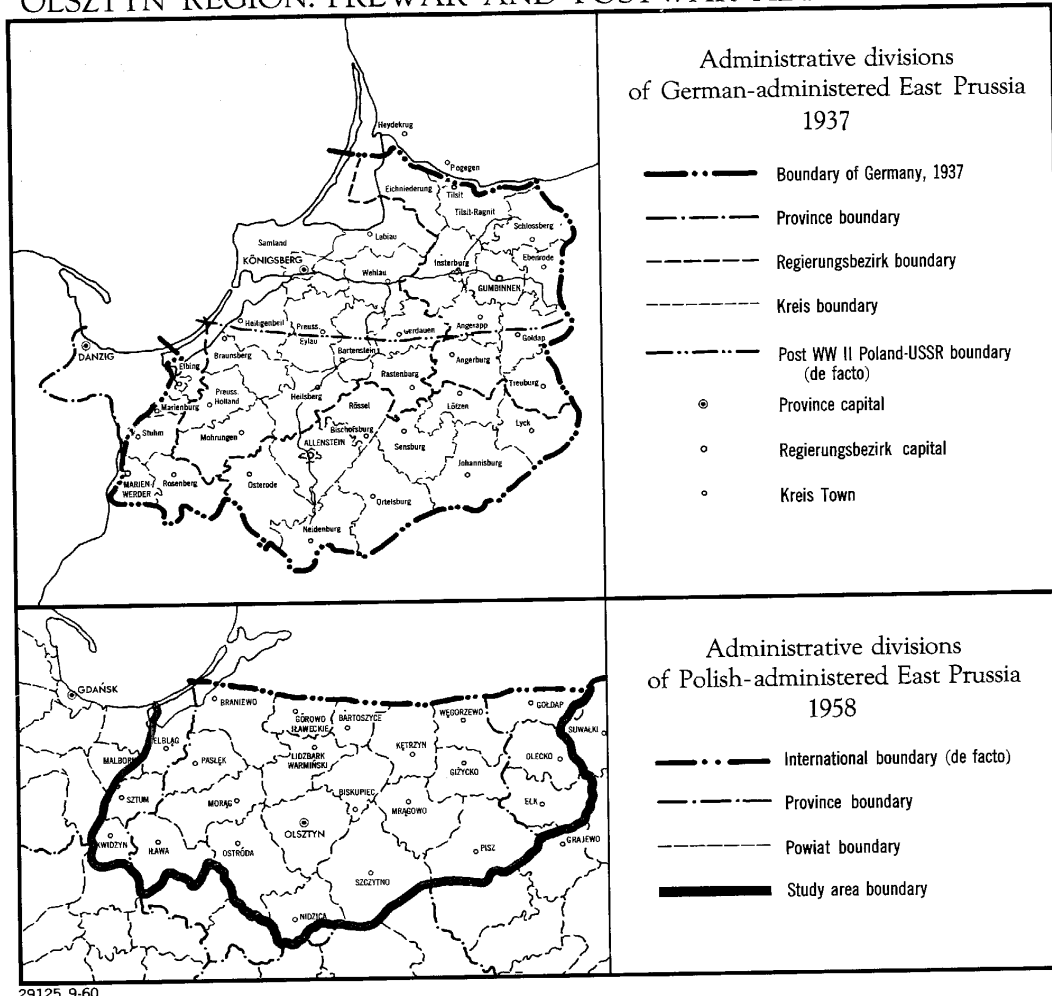
S-E-C-R-E-T

emanating from Bonn are commonly expressed in terms of 1937-39 administrative units. Polish propagandists, however, like to point back to the German administrative arrangements of World War II as an admission on the part of the Germans that it is logical and natural to integrate East Prussia politically and economically with adjacent Polish territory.

The line dividing East Prussia between Poland and the USSR was drawn arbitrarily in 1945 without reference to the prewar German internal administrative units. Thus, the northern parts of 2 former Regierungsbezirken went to the USSR whereas the southern parts went to Poland, along with 2 complete Regierungsbezirken of the former breadkown (see Map 29125). In the current Polish civil-division system, most of Polish-administered East Prussia falls within the administrative province (województwo) of Olsztyn. Exceptional areas are (1) in the east, a part of East Prussia that now forms roughly 3 powiaty (counties) within Białyystok Province; and (2) in the west, a part of East Prussia that now forms 4 powiaty within Gdańsk Province. In the south, Olsztyn Province also includes two powiaty and a small additional area that had been Polish prior to World War II. Throughout Polish-administered East Prussia, current powiat boundaries conform closely to those of prewar German Landkreise. The exceptions occur mainly along the Polish-Soviet boundary where the division of smaller administrative units between Poland and the USSR required some adjustment in the general pattern.

S-E-C-R-E-T

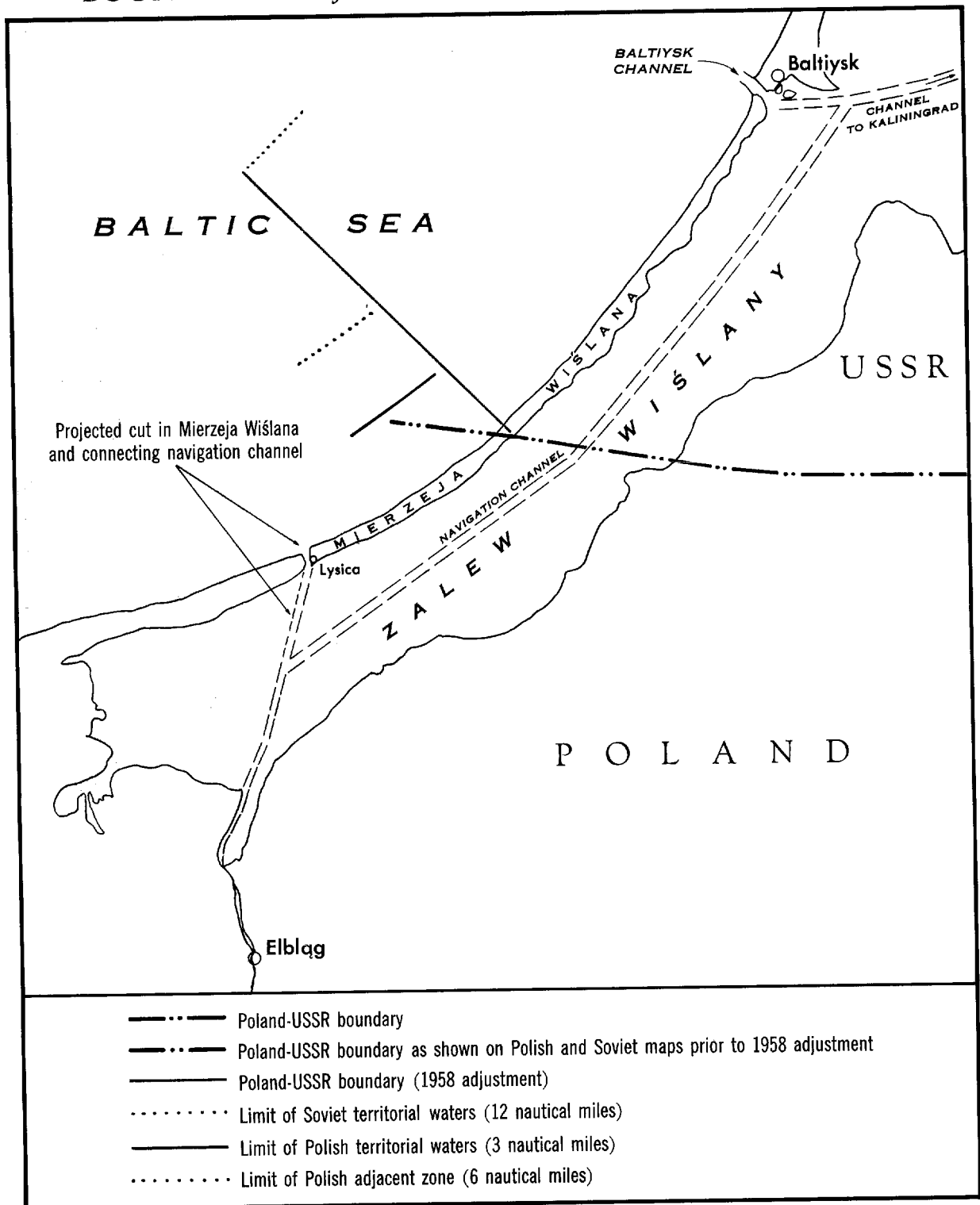
# OLSZTYN REGION: PREWAR AND POSTWAR ADMINISTRATION



29125 9-60



OLSZTYN REGION  
BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT NEAR ZALEW WIŚLANY



29126 9-60

S-E-C-R-E-T

### III. Population

#### A. Population Changes, 1939-59

In 1939, East Prussia (excluding the Memel district) had a population of 2,333,300. Of this number, some 1,331,000 people lived in that part of the area now administered by Poland. The mass exodus of Germans that took place during and after World War II greatly reduced the population of the region. Although Polish resettlement began immediately after the war, by 1946 the Polish census recorded a population of only 469,000 in Polish-administered East Prussia. By 1955 the population had increased to 986,000, mainly through resettlement; the 1959 figure probably approached 1,200,000 (see Figures 14 and 15).

#### B. Characteristics of the Population in 1959

The population of the Olsztyn Region today is relatively young, the birthrate is high, and there is a slight preponderance of females over males. The population density of about 40 per square kilometer is considerably lower than that of central Poland -- for example, Łódź Province has a population density of 92 per square kilometer. The religious complexion of the area has changed completely since 1939. Predominantly Protestant before World II, the Olsztyn Region is now predominantly Roman Catholic. Also, a number of adherents of the Polish Orthodox Church (currently subordinate to the Russian Orthodox Church) now reside in the area whereas before World War II this faith was not represented.

In official Polish parlance, the term "resettler" is used to describe a person transferred to former German territories from areas that were Polish before 1939 and are still Polish, whereas "reimmigrant" designates a person (usually a Pole) from the former Polish eastern territories, now lost to the USSR. The indigenous peoples of the Olsztyn Region include those designated as "autochthons" (members of a group of more or less Polish peoples who were living in German territory in 1939) and ethnic Germans. Many of the latter are statistically absorbed into other population groups, but some are counted separately. Very rough estimates of the number of persons in each of these categories who were living in the Polish part of East Prussia in early 1959 are given in Table 1, p. 19.

The resettlers -- who make up the largest part of the present population of the Olsztyn Region -- come from all sections of pre-World War II Poland, but probably most of them are from Warsaw Province. Among the resettlers are some 50,000 Ukrainians ("Lemko people") from the southeastern provinces (Lublin and Rzeszów). These people were forcibly resettled as a reprisal against the activities of Ukrainian terrorist groups in southeastern Poland.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T



Figure 14. E/k (Lyck), in southeastern section of the Olsztyn Region. Note World War II damage.



Figure 15. E/k (Lyck) street scene. Despite war damage, E/k is one of the few towns in the Olsztyn Region that today has a population larger than before World War II.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

Table 1

Composition of Non-Soviet Population  
in Polish-Administered East Prussia, 1959

Indigenous Peoples		Resettlers		Reimmigrants	
Autochthons	120,000	Poles	815,000	Poles (mainly)	200,000
(Masurians, 70,000)					
(Warmians, 50,000)		Ukrainians	50,000		
Ethnic Germans	15,000				

The reimmigrant category includes Poles from all sections of the eastern territories lost to the USSR after World War II. The Vilno area and the eastern section of pre-World War II Białyłystok Province are particularly well represented. The reimmigrant group also includes some Ukrainians who claimed to be Poles in order to escape from the USSR.

In the early resettlement period (1945-49) there was considerable friction between Polish resettlers and the ethnic Germans and Germanized autochthons. Since then, however, relations between these groups have improved largely because of their mutual misery under the yoke of the Communists. The Poles and autochthons look down on the Ukrainians and newcomers from the lost eastern territories. [redacted]

[redacted] the Ukrainians and reimmigrant Poles were more willing than members of other groups to join the Communist Party and collective farms. 3/ The statement probably has some truth in it. Attitudes influencing such action, however, may stem as much from the desire of the Ukrainians for a defense against hostile neighbors as from personal convictions. Actually, the majority of the people of the Olsztyn Region have deep-seated personal reasons -- such as loss of property, forced departure from ancestral lands, deportation of relatives to the USSR -- for resenting both Soviet and Polish Communist rule. Communism has little strength in rural areas of the region, where Party members are said to number only 2 or 3 per village. 4/ An obstinate below-the-surface struggle is carried on between the mass of the peasants and the Communist Party, with heavy taxes, high prices, scarce consumer goods, and compulsory delivery quotas of farm products figuring importantly as causes of friction between peasant and regime.

The Masurians (Protestants) and the Warmians (Roman Catholics) are descendents of Poles who migrated into East Prussia in the fifteenth century. They speak variant forms of the Mazowiecki (Mazovian or

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

Masurian) dialect, one of the main dialect groups of the Polish language. Although ethnically Slavonic, these people for centuries were subjected to Germanizing influences and many became thoroughly Germanized and others at least bilingual. One authority claims that by 1945 the dialect of many East Prussian Masurians had so degenerated that they could no longer understand Polish newspapers and official notices. The same authority also claims that prior to 1939 not more than 10 percent of the autochthons of the Olsztyn Region thought of themselves as being Poles. <sup>5/</sup> Nevertheless, until 1956 Polish officials viewed the Warmians and Masurians as Poles who could and should be Polonized by means of language courses and indoctrination aimed particularly at the younger generation; permission for the autochthons to emigrate to West Germany was sparingly granted. Since 1956, however, many autochthons and ethnic Germans have been allowed to depart for Germany under the provisions of an act that was intended ostensibly to facilitate reuniting families. <sup>6/</sup> This change in Polish policy seems to be an admission that efforts to Polonize the autochthons have failed. It may also reflect in part an official Polish belief that allowing the autochthons to leave will further weaken the German claim to East Prussia. In addition, Polish leaders may consider that the skills of the Warmians and Masurians are not now as urgently needed as they were in the years immediately following World War II.

The undeniably ethnic Germans who elected to remain or were forced to remain in Polish-administered East Prussia after World War II are an illusive group. Many found it expedient to claim that they were Poles or autochthons; and Polish officials, anxious to keep skilled labor in the area, not infrequently accepted such claims without question. Thus, an official Polish breakdown of the population of the Olsztyn Region would probably acknowledge about 5,000 ethnic Germans and would "hide" an additional 10,000 or so in the autochthon, or possibly some other, category. Regardless of how they are counted officially, it is quite certain that the number of ethnic Germans in the Olsztyn Region has declined sharply since 1956 (probably from about 30,000 to about 15,000) through emigration to Germany.

### C. Settlement Patterns

The various groups that make up the present population of the Olsztyn Region are intermixed, and individual towns and villages may include members of all groups. Warmians and Masurians are somewhat more numerous in the west and south, but beyond this no clear pattern of distribution of ethnic groups is distinguishable from available data.

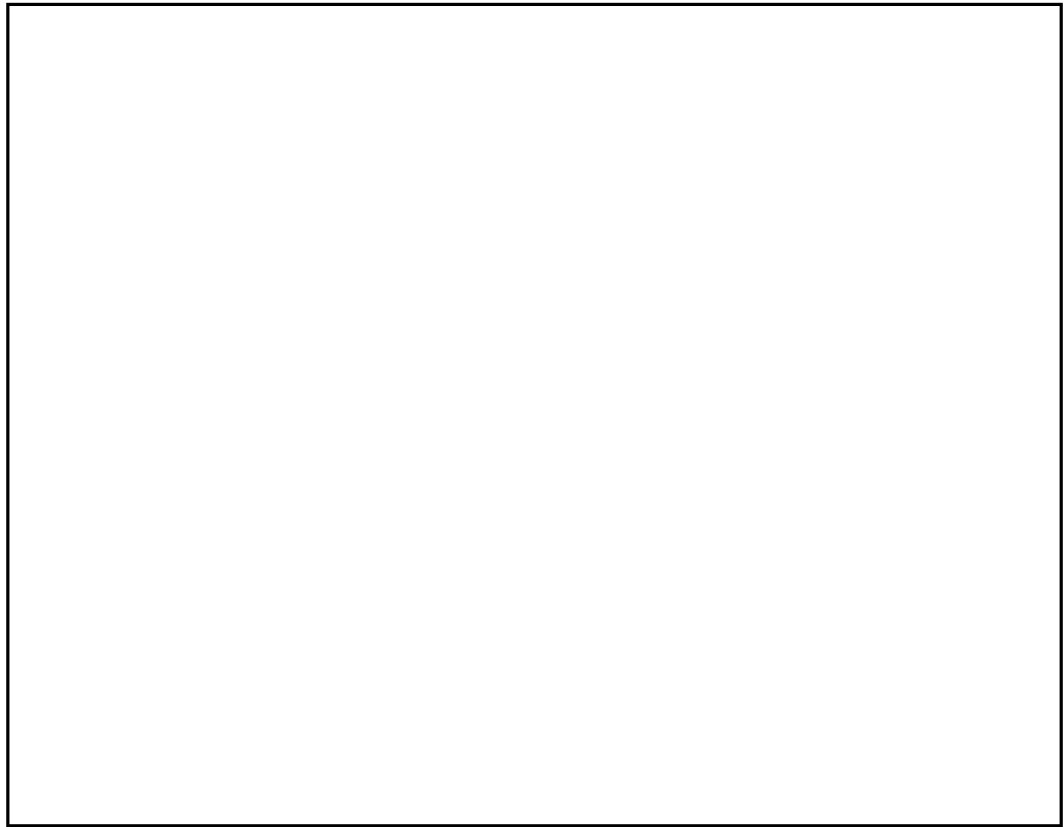
On the whole, the Olsztyn Region is considerably less urban than it was in 1939. The number of towns remains basically the same, but few of them have recovered their pre-World War II population. For comparison, population figures for the years 1939, 1946, and 1956 for five representative towns are given in Table 2, p. 21.

- 20 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1



The atypical increase in the 1956 population of the city of Olsztyn can be explained by the need for administrative buildings and housing for officials, which gave priority to the redevelopment of Olsztyn. Although the city still carries war scars, visitors generally rate Olsztyn as the most completely reconstructed town in Polish-administered East Prussia (see Figures 16 and 17).

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T



Figure 16. Post-World War II street scene in the city of Olsztyn. The city is the administrative center of the województwo (province) bearing its name.



Figure 17. Street scene in Olsztyn, November 1958.

- 22 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

IV. Economy

A. General Status of Development

The economy of the Olsztyn Region is being developed as an integral part of the Polish economy, to which it now makes an appreciable contribution although, in most spheres, 1939 production levels have not yet been reached. The current contribution of the Olsztyn Region to the economic life of Poland cannot be considered critical, however, and loss of this contribution would not have the far-reaching implications that loss of the production of the Western Territories would entail.

The Soviet-influenced economic planning of 1950-56 directed nearly half the state's total investment to industry and 85 percent of this amount to heavy industry, thereby militating strongly against the interests of the relatively backward Olsztyn Region. Other important factors contributing to the economic backwardness of the area include: (1) war damage; (2) disruption of communications and changes in market orientation resulting from division of East Prussia; (3) the general run-down state of the Polish economy; (4) population changes that brought a net loss of skills, especially farming skills; and, finally, (5) the feeling among Polish leaders that the former German territories contiguous to Germany should be settled and developed first.

Although it is not possible to demonstrate with extensive statistical data that the Olsztyn Region is now depressed economically, substantial evidence implies such depression. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] many of the towns as being still in ruins, to streets still blocked by war debris, and to a reconstruction effort that compares unfavorably with that in other parts of Poland. It has been noted in Polish broadcasts that Olsztyn is the only province of Poland in which the number of people employed in agriculture is lower than in 1939 -- by some 9,000. Refugee reports indicate that the people of Polish-administered East Prussia allow their possessions to deteriorate because repairing, painting, or renewing indicates prosperity and would invite tax and quota increases. The food, clothing, and shelter available in the Olsztyn Region have been referred to as sufficient to maintain life, but very monotonous and drab. The outlook of the people is portrayed as discouraged and devoid of hope for a better future (see Figures 18 through 21). 7/

Modest economic gains will probably be made in the Olsztyn Region in the years ahead. When the needs of the area are viewed against the general weaknesses of the Polish economy, however, the outlook for improvement does not seem bright.

S-E-C-R-E-T



S-E-C-R-E-T

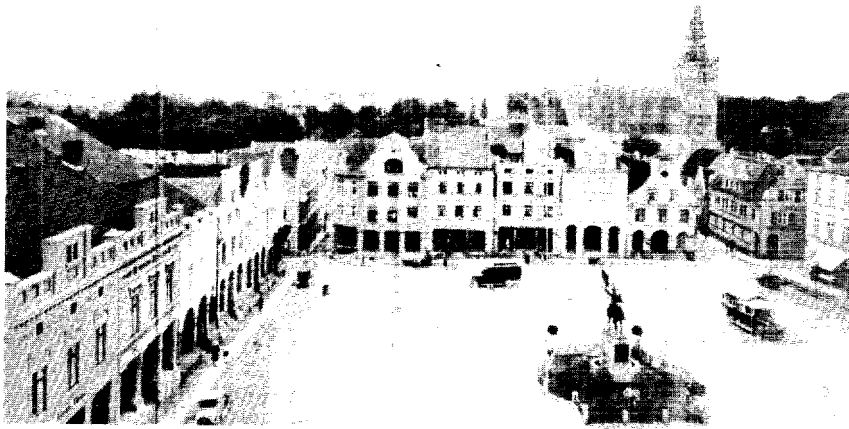


Figure 18. Pre-World War II view of Lidzbark Warmiński (Heilsberg), one of the larger towns in north-central section of the Olsztyn Region.



Figure 19. Elbląg in ruins; post-World War II view. The most important industrial center of the Olsztyn Region, Elbląg is connected by river and dredged channel with the Zalew Wislany.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

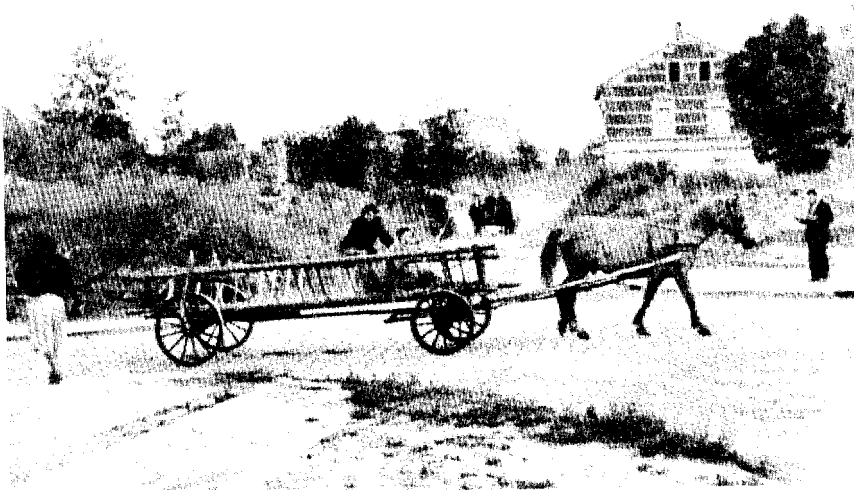


Figure 20. Post-World War II street scene in Gołdap, near the Poland-USSR boundary.



Figure 21. Post-World War II street scene in Gołdap. Note the ruins.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

B. Natural Resources

The Olsztyn Region is poor in natural resources. Truly fertile soils occur only in the west in the valley of the Vistula. Elsewhere, relatively unproductive light sandy soils or clayey sands are the general rule. Peat, brick clay, gravel, chalk, limestone, small amounts of amber, and low-grade iron ores are the only mineral resources of the area. The hydroelectric power potential is not fully developed and stepped-up development in the near future is not likely because of the large capital investment it would require. Although the forests of the region were found to be seriously over-exploited when the Poles took over after World War II, they nevertheless constitute an important resource and may increase in importance if plans for afforestation in the areas poorest soils are implemented. The peat resources of the Olsztyn Region are large, and include several bogs with 100 million or more square meters of peat each. Conditions are generally favorable for large-scale processing of peat and for the transport of peat via inland waterways. Increased local use of peat for fuel, a planning objective, will conserve forests and reduce somewhat the consumption of long-haul coal from Silesia. Deposits of bog ore that average 33 to 40 percent iron but also contain 2 to 4 percent phosphorus occur near Olsztyn and elsewhere in northeastern Poland. The Polish steel industry, however, is not now equipped to use these ores, and they are not being exploited to any appreciable extent. Aerial magnetic surveys in northeast Poland have suggested the possible presence of buried magnetite deposits, and exploratory drilling is planned. The Olsztyn Region, with its short coastline, shares in inshore Baltic fisheries, including those of the Zalew Wiślany (see Figure 7). The region also has relatively important fresh-water fisheries that provide about one-fifth (approximately 3,800 metric tons) of the fresh-water catch of Poland. Further development of the fresh-water fisheries of the area may increase production 30 to 40 percent.

C. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

World War II and its aftermath gave the agricultural economy of the Olsztyn Region a setback from which it has not yet fully recovered. The disruption came about mainly through loss of farming skills (less advanced Polish farmers replacing progressive German farmers), huge losses of livestock (cattle raising had been more productive than grain growing and therefore formed one of the most important elements in the prewar economy), and lost or damaged farm equipment. War damage to public works and disruption of communications brought about by the division of East Prussia also contributed to the agricultural decline.

The main crops of the Olsztyn Region are the main crops of Poland as a whole -- rye, wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, and sugar beets.

S-E-C-R-E-T



Figure 22. Harvesting rye in southwestern section of the Olsztyn Region.



Figure 23. Sowing wheat on state farm at Kozlowo, near former Poland-Germany (East Prussia) boundary.

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

Fairly extensive acreage is also planted to such leguminous fodder crops as clover, vetch, peas, and pelushka. The main rye-growing area is a belt across the southern part of the region. North of this is an arc-shaped area wherein oats and fodder crops are dominant. In the middle of this area, however, wheat and barley are grown extensively. A second and slightly smaller wheat-and-barley area is located in the extreme west (see Figures 22 and 23). Although 1939 land-use patterns are gradually being restored and herds of livestock are being increased, some 62 percent of the cultivated land is still in grains as compared with 55 percent before the war.

Prior to 1956, agriculture in the Olsztyn Region, as in other former German territories, was considerably more collectivized than in old Poland (see Table 3, p. 29 and Figures 23 and 24). The wholesale dissolution of collective and state farms that took place in 1956 greatly reduced the scope of the "socialist sector" of agriculture in the Olsztyn Region.\* Nevertheless, in terms of percent of cultivated land worked collectively, figures for the area remain above the national average.



Figure 24. Collective farm, probably a former estate, in lake region near Mikołajki (Nikolaiken).

\* Although official arguments in support of private as against collective farming have been mainly economic, it certainly has occurred to Polish officials that a relatively contented peasantry rooted to self-owned land would be a better defense against German irredentism than disgruntled collective farmers working land in which they have no proprietary interest.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

Table 3

Agricultural Land in Olsztyn Region  
Worked as State, Collective, and Private Farms  
June 1957 a/

<u>Percent of all agricultural land</u>		
<u>Type of Farm</u>	<u>Olsztyn Province</u>	<u>Poland</u>
Private	64.7	86.2
Collective	7.8	1.3
State	26.5	12.5

a. Source: Rocznik Statystyczny, 1957, Główny  
Urząd Statystyczny Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej  
Ludowej, Warsaw.

The figures on the number of livestock in the Olsztyn Region given in Table 4, below, reflect the considerable rebuilding task that has confronted Polish planners in their efforts to restore the region to its 1939 productivity.

Table 4

Livestock in Olsztyn Region a/

<u>Type of Livestock</u>	<u>Prewar Period (Under German Administration)</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1957</u>
Horses	212,000	7,581	112,000
Cattle	607,000	11,360	417,000
Hogs	808,000	1,700	450,000
Sheep	112,000	3,474	244,000

a. The figures included in the table were given to US diplomatic personnel by Polish officials in Olsztyn. The data probably apply only to Olsztyn Province rather than to Polish-administered East Prussia as a whole. Although they do not check exactly with similar figures in other sources, they present the general proportions with reasonable accuracy.

- 29 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

The greater number of sheep in 1957 as compared to the prewar period reflects a temporary adjustment to patterns of feed availability; sheep are now decreasing in number, whereas other types of livestock are increasing, a trend approved by Polish planners who, like their German predecessors, feel that sheep raising is not the most advantageous use of the land. Current plans call for an increase of land in meadow at the expense of acreage in grain and also call for a head-of-cattle-per-hectare ratio of about 50 to 100 as compared to 30 to 100 at the beginning of 1957. As grain cultivation declines, dairy farming and the cultivation of beets and potatoes are to be emphasized. Full development of these plans will bring agricultural productivity nearer to the former German standards.

#### D. Industry

In the Olsztyn Region about 1,000 industrial plants employ some 40,000 workers. The great majority of the plants, however, are very small enterprises. Although the Olsztyn Region has never been a heavily industrialized area, it now is considerably less industrialized than it was under the Germans. The decline of industry since World War II has resulted from wartime destruction and removal of equipment, changes in market orientation, replacement of skilled labor by less-skilled labor, and various psychological factors. The industry of the Olsztyn Region today is almost wholly nationalized or organized in cooperatives subject to national planning. The sector entirely under private control employs less than 1 percent of the industrial labor force.

The main spheres of activity in which the region is of some industrial importance to the Polish economy are the processing of wood, leather, and food; and the manufacture of machinery and metals, textiles, building materials, clothing, and footwear. Elblag is the most important industrial center. It is the site of the Schichau Enterprise, which makes machinery, and other relatively important plants. Of the industrial plants listed in Appendix D only those designated by an asterisk are of major importance; others are of local, minor, or uncertain significance. The list is believed to be complete so far as major and secondary plants are concerned and to provide a representative cross section of minor facilities.

The power needs of the Olsztyn Region are now met by the thermal powerplant at Elblag, which has a capacity of 19,300 kilowatts, and a number of relatively small hydroelectric and thermal powerplants scattered throughout the area, many of them operated by industrial establishments. Additional power is supplied via the national grid by generating stations in adjacent regions. The principal substations are at Elblag and Olsztyn.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

Postwar orientation of the Olsztyn Region toward Polish rather than German markets eliminates some of the need for processing agricultural commodities at the source of production, thus making it unlikely that the food-processing industry will regain its prewar importance -- even when agricultural production reaches 1939 levels. Although lumbering and the production of wood products will figure importantly in the economy of the area (as they did under the Germans), commercially valuable forests are not as extensive as they were, and many years of planned afforestation will be required to build up and sustain wood-based industries (see Figure 25).

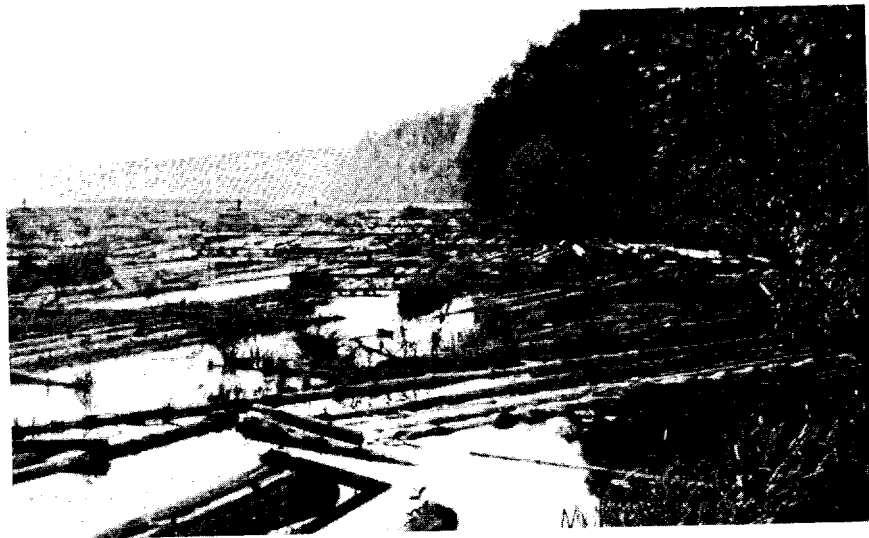


Figure 25. Log rafting on the Jezioro Nidzkie (Nieder-See) near Ruciane. (Pre-World War II German source)

Development plans for the Olsztyn Region call for emphasis on industries using locally available raw materials that previously have not been fully exploited. This category includes plants for processing fresh-water fish, wood from deciduous trees, wood-waste, reeds, and peat. A peat research institute concerned with the development of new uses for peat has been established in Elbląg. Using peat as a fuel for thermal powerplants has been considered and may still be under consideration.

S-E-C-R-E-T



S-E-C-R-E-T

## V. Transportation

### A. Railroads

The principal lines of the railroad net of the Olsztyn Region form a flattened "X", with the city of Olsztyn at the point of intersection; secondary lines -- dense in some areas, sparse in others -- serve this basic pattern. In the extreme west, a vital northwest-southeast line connecting Warsaw and Gdańsk crosses the region.

Under the Germans, southern East Prussia was served by a network of main lines radiating southward from Königsberg (Kaliningrad) and Insterburg (Chernyakhovsk) to which was linked a fairly dense network of feeder lines, some of them narrow gauge. During World War II, nearly all of the railroads of East Prussia were badly damaged, and in the Polish reconstruction of the southern part of the system many secondary lines were dismantled or abandoned. Several of the dismantled or abandoned lines are near the Soviet-Polish frontier, especially around Węgorzewo (54°13'N-21°44'E), but there are others throughout the region. The division of East Prussia between Poland and the USSR greatly reduced the number of railroad connections between the two parts, and also affected adversely the pattern of main and secondary lines. Some railroads that had been main lines in the German era were no longer important; and other lines, formerly of secondary importance, became vital links in the Polish railroad system. Noteworthy among the latter is the Gdańsk-Warsaw line, which has been reconstructed and improved and is now mostly double tracked. The reconstruction of the railroads of the Olsztyn Region and changes in market orientation have made certain towns, notably Olsztyn and Ełk, somewhat more important as railroad centers than they were under the Germans; but the importance of other places, such as Węgorzewo and Gołdap, has declined. A Soviet single-track broad-gauge line (5'0") connects Elbląg with Kaliningrad, USSR. Elsewhere, broad-gauge track extends only short distances south of the USSR boundary (see Figures 8 and 11).

### B. Roads

The main route in the Olsztyn Region is an east-west road (Elbląg-Olsztyn-Biskupiec-Ełk-Poland/USSR frontier) that runs approximately through the middle of the area. There are two major north-south routes: Warsaw-Kaliningrad, USSR, which crosses the east-west route at Biskupiec; and Warsaw-Gołdap, which crosses the east-west route at Ełk. Although not dense, the network of secondary roads compares favorably with the nets elsewhere in Poland. About half the road mileage, including all principal and many secondary roads, is surfaced (crushed stone, cobblestone, asphalt, or concrete), but surface widths vary greatly -- from about 12 to 24 feet.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

Although the lake-dotted terrain of the Olsztyn Region does not lend itself to inexpensive road building, the prewar roads of the area were superior to those of adjacent Polish territory. Strategic considerations obviously figured importantly in their development. The present road network is basically the same as that which existed under the Germans, but war damage has not been completely repaired and maintenance of the Olsztyn roads is generally below prewar standards (see Figure 26). Extensive sections of even the most important roads are reportedly in poor condition. Much of the road work -- repair, improvement, and new construction -- done by the Poles since World War II has been directed toward establishing better and more numerous links between the roads of old Poland and those of East Prussia. Although progress has been made, much room for improvement in connections still remains. Dividing East Prussia between Poland and the USSR reduced the importance of many roads near the Poland-USSR boundary and led to the virtual abandonment of others -- for example, former through roads that are now dead ends and roads serving boundary areas that are now only sparsely populated. An Autobahn from Elbląg to Kaliningrad that was under construction in the German era has not been completed, and only the eastern lane is currently usable (see Figure 27). The Olsztyn Region is somewhat better served than other sections of Poland by bus lines, reflecting, among other things, the inadequacies of the railroad service. Scheduled freight-truck lines operate over a few routes.

### C. Inland Waterways

The inland waterways of the Olsztyn Region consist of two basic networks: (1) in the west, a system of canals, rivers, canal-connected lakes, and coastal (lagoon) routes having Elbląg as the focal point, and (2) in the east, the "Masurian system" comprising a north-south chain of fairly large lakes and their connecting canals or canalized rivers (see Figures 28 through 32). In addition to the two main systems, lakes and short stretches of river are used in many places within the area for transporting logs and other commodities (see Figure 25). The inland waterways of the Olsztyn Region, like those of Poland as a whole, were damaged and neglected during World War II and have not been completely restored.

With a few exceptions, notably the routes connecting Elbląg with the Zalew Wiślany and the Vistula, Olsztyn waterways are now of minor economic importance and traffic capacity. The Elbląg -- Zalew Wiślany -- Vistula connections recently have acquired new importance as a result of the efforts of the Soviet planners to improve a barge route between Kaliningrad and East Germany via the Zalew Wiślany, Elbląg, and the Nogat, the Vistula, the Noteć, and the Warta Rivers. This route has been operational for many years, but its capacity is not great. Current Soviet developmental activities are presumably directed toward the

S-E-C-R-E-T



Figure 26. Post-World War II reconstruction at Kętrzyn (Rastenburg). (About 1953)

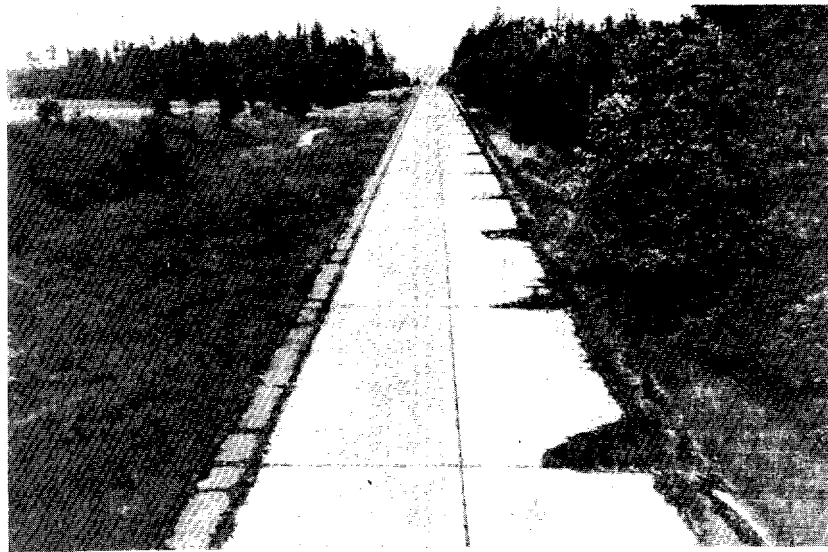


Figure 27. German-constructed Autobahn connecting Elbląg with Kaliningrad (Königsberg), now in Soviet territory. Section near Braniewo. Only one of two lanes planned was completed, and now the road is seldom used.

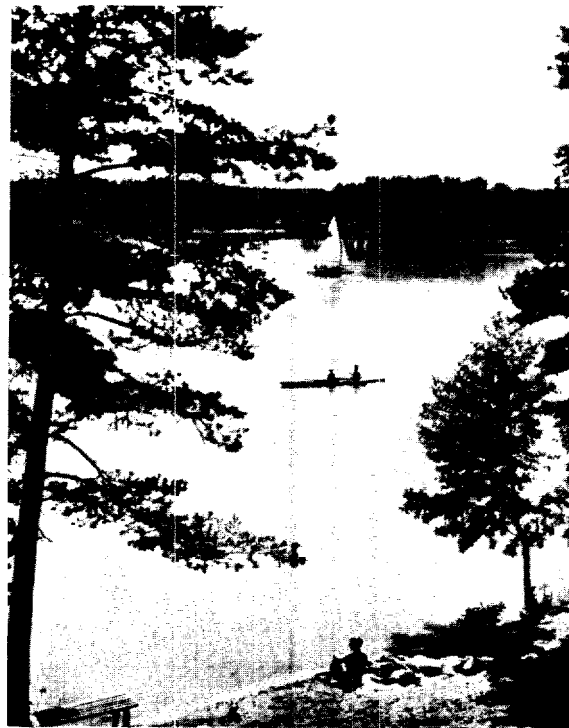
25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T



Figure 28. Lyna (Alle) River near the city of Olsztyn.

Figure 29. Jezioro Nidzkie (Nieder-See) near Ruciane. Many such lakes serve as links in the inland waterways systems of the Olsztyn Region. An effort is being made to develop this part of the region as a tourist attraction.



S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

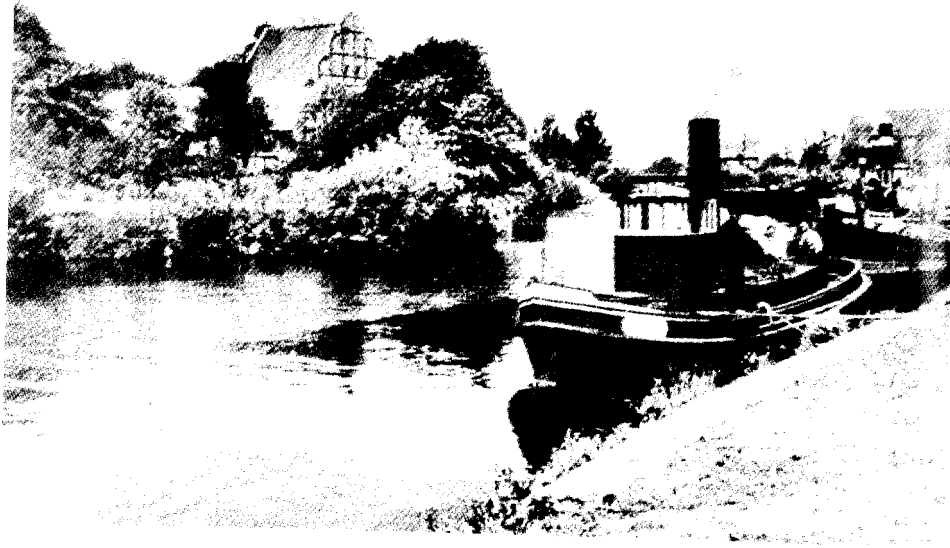


Figure 30. Inland waterway craft at Giżycko (Lötzen).  
(German source, probably pre-World War II)



Figure 31. Mikołajki (Nikolaiken) on Kanál Mazurski, which connects  
several lakes in the eastern section of the Olsztyn Region. (1933)

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

improvement of existing facilities. The "Ermland system," connecting the Ostróda area with Elbląg, includes the Overland Canal wherein waterway craft are hauled overland in cradles via a railroad constructed specifically for this purpose (see Figure 32).

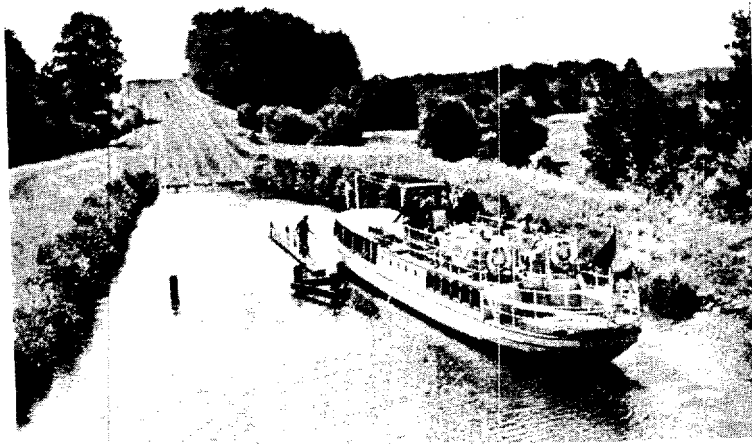


Figure 32. One of several over-the-hill portages on the Elbląg Canal. (German source, date unknown)

Under the Germans the Masurian lake-canal system in the east was connected by canal with the Alle (~~Lyna~~) at a point that now is in Soviet territory. Although the system was mentioned in a 1954 report as being operational, the frontier-crossing connection now seems to be used but little and the Poles may intend to discontinue maintenance of their part of the canal. 8,9/ Polish long-range plans for inland waterways include, as a possible project, the canalization of the Pisa River, which would thus provide a navigable connection between the Masurian system and the Vistula by way of the Narew.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

VI. Military Aspects

After World War II, Polish armed forces in the Olsztyn Region, as elsewhere in Poland, were under virtual Soviet control until 1956. On the surface, this control was much reduced by the Polish-Soviet understandings that followed the advent of the Gomulka regime (October 1956), but in actuality some control remains. There seems to be little co-operation between the lower echelons of the Soviet and Polish armed forces stationed in the Olsztyn Region; and, with the exception of Braniewo and vicinity, their operational areas do not overlap. Polish armed forces are stationed mostly in the east and south, whereas Soviet forces are concentrated largely in the northwestern section between the Pasłęka (Passarge) and Łyna (Alle) Rivers from Dobre Miasto northward. This distribution pattern seems to reflect a deliberate effort by the USSR to extend the Soviet-manned defense perimeter of Kaliningrad. Both Polish and Soviet military establishments use former German barracks and installations, some of which have been reconstructed. A few large estates of the German era have been redeveloped as military establishments.

The installations include some possible guided-missile sites, for example, one near Braniewo, one or more on the Mierzeja Wiślana, and one near Szeroki Bór (53°38'N-21°40'E).  the restricted area at the last site mentioned takes in the World War II headquarters of the German air force (Göring's headquarters). 10/

25X1

Hitler's former headquarters in East Prussia, an extensive system of underground installations, may or may not have current military importance. Although reportedly in rubble, a part of the system near Kętrzyn (Rastenburg, Figure 28) has been opened by the Poles as a tourist attraction. 11/ Other reports indicate that the installations originally comprised a vast chain of underground bunkers 35 kilometers long; various underground units were connected by narrow-gauge railroads and by telecommunication lines. If this is true, the part near Kętrzyn that has been opened to tourists is but a small portion of the system, which may extend northward to or across the Poland-USSR boundary. It is possible that some of the installations escaped demolition or have been restored and are currently being used by the Poles, by Soviet administrative or military personnel, or by both.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

VII. Soviet-Polish Relations In and Near the Olsztyn Region

A. General

Relations between Poles and citizens of the USSR now living in and near the Olsztyn Region seem to be more strained than in other localities along the Poland-USSR boundary, a boundary that has never been a "frontier of friendship." In addition to the deeply rooted historical antagonisms that affect relations between Russians and Poles generally, a number of special irritants apply particularly to the Olsztyn Region.

B. Navigation of the Zalew Wiślany (Frisches Haff)

The Zalew Wiślany, the long shallow coastal lagoon that abuts the northwestern part of the Olsztyn Region, can be navigated by Baltic vessels of 12-foot draft only along specific dredged channels. One such channel, dredged to a depth of 13 feet, connects the port of Elbląg with the Baltic via the Baltiysk Channel -- in USSR territory (see Map 29126). The last confirmed reports on navigation in this area indicate that as of August 1957 the Soviet authorities were still denying Polish vessels the right to enter and leave the Zalew Wiślany via the Baltiysk Channel, the only available route for sea-going craft. <sup>12/</sup> This Soviet ban has been a sore point in Soviet-Polish relations in the Olsztyn Region, and the reasons why the USSR enforces it are not immediately apparent. By denying the Poles access to the Baltiysk Channel the USSR may feel that it can spur Polish development of an alternate entrance to the Zalew Wiślany -- one which would be wholly within Polish territory. Such an alternate entrance, to be cut across the Mierzeja Wiślana in the vicinity of Lysica (see Map 29126), has been tentatively projected by the Poles for some time and some developmental work has been done. The Poles, however, have shown no inclination to push the project to completion and they may feel that foreseeable advantages to Elbląg do not justify the cost. The possibility of encountering serious silting problems that would make maintenance costly may have figured in deterring work on a new channel. Military considerations also may be a contributing factor, possibly the main one, in the Soviet refusal to allow the Poles free transit between the Baltic and the Zalew Wiślany. The USSR has undoubtedly constructed military installations, probably including missile sites, along the mainland coast and along its section of the Mierzeja Wiślana. The 12-mile belt of territorial waters and the restriction that prevents vessels of foreign flag from entering the channel connecting Kaliningrad with the Baltic would keep such installations fairly well concealed from the eyes of the world, an arrangement which would be negated to a considerable extent by Polish navigation of the USSR section of the Zalew Wiślany.

S-E-C-R-E-T



S-E-C-R-E-T

C. Flood-control Problems Along the Poland-USSR Boundary

25X1 Flood-control problems in the drainage basins that straddle the Olsztyn Region section of the Polish-USSR frontier have been a sore point in Polish-Soviet relations in the area. Flooding seems to be general along most of the boundary but is apparently particularly troublesome in the section north of Węgorzewo, in the vicinity of Jezioro Oświn (54°18'N-21°35'E). Most of the streams that cross the boundary flow northward into Soviet territory. Thus if normal flow is blocked by silting or other causes, such as failure to maintain dams, water levels tend to rise in streams and lakes in Polish territory, and, as a result, adjacent pastures and cropland are inundated. A 1957 report [ ] indicated that "thousands of hectares" of potentially productive land on the Polish side of the boundary were made useless by flooding. Although there also appears to be some flooding in Soviet territory, the USSR does not seem greatly concerned about it, perhaps because flooding occurs mostly in the wide, virtually empty strip of "no-man's land" maintained along the Soviet side of the boundary. Polish-Soviet talks on flooding problems of the frontier area were held in the spring of 1957 and, according to Polish press accounts, the understandings reached at that time were to be formalized by treaty at a later date. <sup>13</sup>/ Whether a treaty has been promulgated was not known as of 1 January 1960, but such action seems unlikely. Implementation of the 1957 understandings, however, would not necessarily have to await formal treaty action.

D. Soviet Removal of Assets During and After World War II

The people of the Olsztyn Region attribute part of the postwar impoverishment of the area to Soviet removal of assets during and immediately after World War II. In reports referring to this period, removal of livestock, industrial equipment, tools, scrap metal, and agricultural implements is commonly mentioned. <sup>14,15</sup>/ Whether Soviet "liberating" efforts were as great as disgruntled residents of the area now believe they were probably will never be known, but Soviet looting remains a sore point with the people of the area -- not excluding the Polish Communist leadership.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

VIII. The German Claim to East Prussia

The government of the Federal Republic of Germany at Bonn still officially calls for a return to the Reich boundaries of 1937, and thus claims East Prussia. East Germany's Soviet-sponsored government accepts the Oder-Neisse boundary and endorses no German claims. The Poles now hold the land, and the claim of the Federal Republic to "lost German territories" draws its main strength from the refusal of the Western Powers to recognize the Oder-Neisse boundary. The dissatisfied Germans and Germanized autochthons of East Prussia were, and to some extent still are, an important argument in favor of the German claim. Their continuing exodus, however, weakens the German position.

The current maintenance of German claims to East Prussia and other lands east of the Oder-Neisse line is, for the most part, Federal Republic propaganda. The extent to which this propaganda reflects the feeling of the German people is hard to estimate. Some Germans, especially refugees and expellees, undoubtedly yearn for the return of the eastern territories, but others shed few tears over the loss of the Oder-Neisse lands or East Prussia. Those having few regrets feel that East Prussia (heavily subsidized by the German government prior to World War II) was an economic liability.

Poles of all political coloration are generally united in believing that East Prussia and other areas acquired from Germany should remain Polish. Belief that all of these lands will remain Polish, however, is far from universal. West German propaganda and memories of Polish-German troubles of the past have kept the Poles apprehensive in spite of Adenauer's assurances that Germany will never attempt to recover territory by force. Poland has made a great effort to counter German propaganda but has not been highly successful. In fact, Polish propaganda pounding on the theme that "Poland's present frontiers are stable and inviolable" seems actually to have reinforced a widely held Polish conviction that they are not.

Although the USSR supports the "Oder-Neisse peace frontier," there is reason to believe that from time to time the USSR has deliberately planted rumors that territorial concessions to East Germany at the expense of Poland are under consideration. This apparently has been done to keep the Poles from becoming too independent-minded and also to bring pressure to bear on the Polish government for greater conformity to Bloc patterns.

In the other countries of Communist Europe it is felt that the German use of the area as a military springboard to start the attack on adjacent Slavic countries in World War II constitutes reason enough for eliminating East Prussia as a "German thorn" in the side of the

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

Slav peoples. It is felt that in general the elimination of East Prussia as a strategically provocative German island was a healthy thing and that re-creation of a German East Prussia would revive the Polish Corridor problem that bedeviled Europe between the two world wars.

Although the German claim to East Prussia is not without merit, especially historical merit, the chances that all or part of the area will be returned to Germany in the foreseeable future seem very remote. Paramount among indicators pointing to this conclusion is the importance of the Kaliningrad area to the USSR. The port of Kaliningrad together with the adjacent area constitutes the westernmost territory under the Soviet flag. Major lines of communication connect Kaliningrad with industrial and other centers in the USSR, and the region shows signs of becoming increasingly important as a transportation focus and military area. Thus, it is exceedingly difficult to visualize circumstances under which the USSR would accept territorial adjustments that would bring German sovereignty back to any part of East Prussia.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

APPENDIX A

HISTORICAL RESUME OF POLISH-ADMINISTERED EAST PRUSSIA

I. Prior to World War II

The area that was to become known as East Prussia was originally inhabited by indigenous Prussians, or Borussians, who were ethnically akin to the Latvians and Lithuanians. These non-Germanic, non-Christian Prussians were more fierce than their Lettish brothers to the north in whose midst German colonies were established beginning about 1200 A.D. Alarmed by the growing menace of Christian power, the Prussian tribes invaded Poland to the south and west of their lands thereby causing the Poles in 1224 to appeal to the Teutonic Knights for aid. The arrival of the Teutonic Knights in East Prussia was followed by 50 years of warfare that led to the virtual extermination of the Prussian population and the establishment of a strong German colony in their lands. The few Prussians who remained forgot their native tongue and became Germans, principally German serfs. Prior to the coming of the Teutonic Knights to East Prussia and for long thereafter, Polish colonists settled along the margins of the area, especially in the west and south. The number of such colonists and the degree to which they were eventually "Germanized" are still loudly debated by German and Polish propagandists.

In 1466 the Order of Teutonic Knights ceded the areas later known as West Prussia to Poland and accepted Polish suzerainty over the rest of their domain. The Order was secularized in 1525 (but still under Polish suzerainty) and East Prussia became a hereditary duchy under a branch of the Brandenburg-Hohenzollern dynasty. In 1618 the duchy was passed to the electors of Brandenburg and was finally guaranteed full independence from Poland in 1660. The duchy, then known as Prussia, acquired West Prussia through the first partition of Poland in 1772, thus consolidating the eastern part of the state of Prussia that played so important a part in the historical development of modern Germany, and also blocking Poland's access to the sea. The second and third partitions of Poland (1793 and 1795) attached large sections of Poland to Prussia and divided the remainder between Austria and Russia. With minor changes, this arrangement lasted until the end of World War I, although it was set aside briefly during the Napoleonic wars. During World War I, East Prussia was the only part of Germany extensively devastated through military action (German-Russian battles). The independent Poland established by the armistice of 11 November 1918 regained most of West Prussia from Germany as well as access to the Baltic through the Polish Corridor. Danzig became a free city. In 1920,

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

plebiscites of doubtful validity were held in border districts of East Prussia; and, for the most part, the people voted in favor of Germany. In 1939, Polish rejection of German demands for the return of Danzig led to the German attack on Poland that started World War II.

## II. After World War II

Since World War II the terms "western territories," "northern territories," "eastern territories," "Oder-Neisse territories," "recovered territories," and "regained territories" have all been used to some extent in Polish and other literature in referring to the lands Poland gained or lost as a result of the war. "Western territories" originally identified all erstwhile German territory that came under Polish administration after World War II -- that is, extensive portions of the German provinces of East Prussia, Pomerania, and Brandenburg, and nearly all of Silesia as well as the former Free City of Danzig (German until 1918). Later, as Poland's assimilation of the acquired areas progressed, the expression "western territories" came to be used to designate only the areas between pre-World War II Poland and the Oder-Neisse line (the de facto post-World War II Polish-German boundary). During this period Danzig and the Polish-administered part of East Prussia were referred to with increasing frequency as the "northern territories". Unfortunately, the meaning of the terms "northern territories" is confused by the occasional inclusion of Polish-administered Pomerania within the area so designated. "Eastern territories" is used consistently by Polish writers to designate areas that Poland lost to the USSR. In German sources, however, the areas east of the Oder-Neisse line that were German in 1937 and are now under Polish or Soviet administration are often referred to as the "eastern territories," "the lost territories," or "the east." It should be borne in mind that the meaning attached to "eastern territories" by German writers is entirely different from the meaning attached by Polish writers. "Oder-Neisse territories" is used very loosely, sometimes designating all areas acquired from Germany and sometimes referring only to the area between pre-World War II Poland and the Oder-Neisse line. The propagandistic terms "recovered territories" and "regained territories," which came into use in Poland after World War II, generally mean all areas acquired from Germany. In exceptional cases, however, these expressions actually refer only to the area between pre-World War II Poland and the Oder-Neisse line.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

## APPENDIX B

INDUSTRIES OF THE OLSZTYN REGION

<u>Place</u>	<u>Type of Industry</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Barczewo 53°50'N-20°42'E	Armament plant	
Bartoszyce 54°15'N-20°48'E	Textile plant (knitwear)* Agricultural equipment repair shop Sawmill Refractory material plant	
Biskupiek 53°52'N-20°58'E	Iron and brass foundry Arms plant	
Braniewo 54°23'N-19°50'E	Brickyard Fish-processing plant Tannery Refractory material plant	
Dobre Miasto 53°59'N-20°24'E	Agricultural equipment factory* Brickyard	Agricultural equipment plant was expanded in 1954; new buildings were under construction in 1956.
Elblag 54°10'N-19°23'E	Metal-products and machinery plants* Locomotive and rolling-stock plants* Clothing factories Dairy-products plants Meat-packing plant Textile plant Sawmills Reed-products plant Tractor and agricultural machinery plants Tarpaper plant Wood-fixture plant* Brewery Tobacco factories	Main industrial center of the Olsztyn Region; shipbuilding, an important prewar industry, was not resumed after World War II, although parts for inland waterway craft are still manufactured. In reconstructing Elblag, industrial plants have received first priority; the town itself still shows much war damage. Wood-fixture plant makes pontons and other wooden articles for the army.

\* Of major importance.

- 47 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

## S-E-C-R-E-T

Place	Type of Industry	Remarks
Ełk 53°50'N-22°21'E	Flax-products plant Railroad equipment repair plant Plywood plant	One of the few towns in the Olsztyn Region with a postwar population greater than prewar (1939, 16,400; 1955, 19,500).
Giżycko 54°02'N-21°46'E	Fish-processing plant Boat repair yard Veneer factory	Fish cannery established since World War II to exploit lake fisheries.
Górowo 53°58'N-20°59'E	Synthetic fiber plant	
Iłwa 53°36'N-19°34'E	Arms plant	
Kętrzyn 54°05'N-21°23'E	Brewery Cellulose plant Synthetic-coffee factory Flour mill Military-goods plant Sugar refinery Yeast factory	Military-goods plant produces mainly for the army (cots, bowls, trenching tools, and skis).
Malbork 54°02'N-19°03'E	Aircraft assembly plant Pharmaceutical factory Chemical plant (alcohol) Hemp-processing and flax-processing plant Amber-processing plant Rubber-products factory Sugar refinery Tractor repair plant	Malbork has not regained its prewar industrial importance but even so it may be the second most important industrial center in the Olsztyn Region. The population in 1939 was 27,300; in 1956, 22,500.
Mikołajki 53°54'N-22°34'E	Fiberboard plant	Apparently, reeds are used as the main raw material.
Morąg 53°55'N-19°56'E	Flax and hemp spinning mill Foundry Plywood plant	

S-E-C-R-E-T

## S-E-C-R-E-T

Place	Type of Industry	Remarks
Mragowo 53°52'N-21°18'E	Brush factory Furniture factory Beaverboard factory Clothing plant Sawmill Farm equipment repair plant	
Nidzica 53°22'N-20°26'E	Brickyards Flour mills Furniture plant	
Olsztyn 53°47'N-20°29'E	Agricultural machinery repair plant Brickyards Dairy-products plant Furniture factories Locomotive repair plant Grain mill Machine repair plants Prefabricated-building-material plant Sawmill Slaughterhouse Match factory Wood-fixture plant	As a production and processing center, the town has not regained its prewar importance. Its importance as a railroad and administrative center, however, has increased.
Ostróda 53°42'N-19°59'E	Brickyard Cement plant Railroad equipment repair plant	
Paslek 54°04'N-19°40'E	Iron and brass foundry Furniture factory	
Pisz 53°38'N-21°48'E	Sawmills Paper mill Plywood plant	An important wood-processing center. Sawmills and other facilities were considerably expanded in 1950-51, and in 1959 they were reported to employ 4,000 people.
Reszel 54°03'N-21°09'E	Agricultural equipment factory Wood-processing machinery plant	

S-E-C-R-E-T



S-E-C-R-E-T

<u>Place</u>	<u>Type of Industry</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Ruciane 53°39'N-21°36'E	Beaverboard plant	Plant apparently completed in 1955 or 1956.
Szczytno 53°34'N-21°00'E	Fiber spinning mill Brewery Brickyards Chemical plant Concrete-products plant Furniture factory Glass factory Sawmill	
Węgorzewo 54°13'N-21°44'E	Concrete-products plant Fish-processing plant	

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

APPENDIX C

GAPS IN INTELLIGENCE

The available data on Polish-administered East Prussia has many gaps. Foremost among them is the paucity of current statistics by powiat (second-order civil division). Because of this void, it is impossible to build a statistical picture of Polish-administered East Prussia that lends itself to exact comparison with the area as it was under German administration. For many subjects, the only available statistics are round figures pertaining to the province (województwo) of Olsztyn, which takes in the greater part of Polish-administered East Prussia but is not identical in area. Reliable data (prewar or postwar) on ethnic groups are also lacking. Pre-World War II German figures for East Prussia are quite reliable on most subjects, but are not trustworthy so far as ethnic relationships are concerned. Other significant gaps occur in industrial-production data (particularly the output of specific plants), in information on government investment plans and programs, and in information on Polish-Soviet relations in the area.

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

Approved For Release 2002/05/07 : CIA-RDP79T01018A000300050001-6

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2002/05/07 : CIA-RDP79T01018A000300050001-6

Approved For Release 2002/05/07 : CIA-RDP79T01018A000300050001-6

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2002/05/07 : CIA-RDP79T01018A000300050001-6

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~